

Message Text

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FOR MCCALL FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE RECEIVED FOLLOWING OPEN TELEX FROM KAP THIS MORNING:

BEGIN TEXT: SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT FLORENTSIYA STREET,KIEV

A. SUMMARY. KAP CHIEF PORTER MET SOVIET MINOR DISSIDENT/POTENTIAL EMIGRANT AT HIS REQUEST EARLY EVENING JUNE 6. WHILE TALKING WITH HIM IN FLORENTSIYA COURTYARD, PORTER SPOTTED MOVIE CAMERAMAN FILMING CONVERSATION. WHEN CHALLENGED BY PORTER, CAMERAMAN RETREATED, THEN RAN TO NEARBY CAR. TWO MILITIAMEN AND A PASSERBY CAME TO PORTER'S ASSISTANCE BUT, NEARLY RUNNING PORTER AND ONE MILITIAMAN DOWN, CAR WITH CAMERAMAN BROKE AWAY. SECOND CAR PICKED UP SOVIET INTERLOCUTOR AND SPED AWAY. END SUMMARY.

B. AT INITIATIVE OF YOUNG SOVIET MINOR DISSIDENT SEEKING TO EMIGRATE TO US, PORTER MET WITH HIM AT 7:20 P.M. ON RETURNING TO NO. 9 FLORENTSIYA STREET AT END OF WORKING DAY. SITTING ON BENCH IN COURTYARD WITH SOVIET, PORTER NOTED MAN WITH MOVIE CAMERA APPARENTLY

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TAKING PICTURES OF HIM AND SOVIET FROM 30 FEET AWAY. PORTER SPOKE TO SOVIET, WHO THEN MOVED TO ANOTHER SPOT AND RESUMED FILMING IN BRAZEN MANNER. PORTER GOT UP AND, WALKING TOWARD CAMERAMAN, OFFERED HIS IDENTIFICATION AND ASKED FOR CAMERAMAN'S. SOVIET MUMBLED WORDS TO EFFECT HE WAS FILMING "ON ASSIGNMENT FROM TELEVISION,"

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BUT BROKE OFF FILMING AND BACKED AWAY. PORTER MOVED AFTER HIM, REPEATING REQUEST FOR HIS DOCUMENTS UNTIL AN BROKE INTO TROT AND HEADED FOR NEARBY TAN VOLGA, LICENSE KX-, MANNED ONLY BY DRIVER.

C. PORTER FOLLOWED CAMERAMAN TO VOLGA, CALLING FOR HELP TO NEARBY MILITIAMAN WHO JOINED HIM AS DID MILITIAMAN OPENED DRIVER'S DOOR, BUT WAS PUSHED AWAY. SECOND MILITIAMAN AND PORTER WERE NEARLY RUN DOWN AS BLACK VOLGA, WHICH APPEARED SUDDENLY, DISGORGING FOUR CCUPANTS AS IF TO ASSIST MILITIA BUT THEN PULLING WAY JUST AS SUDDENLY. YOUNG SOVIET INTERLOCUTOR DEPARTED IN SECOND CAR.

D. INCIDENT WAS WITNESSED BY DOZENS OF EVENING STROLLERS, NEIGHBORS IN VI(INITY OF NO. 9 FLORENTSIYA, BUT NO WITNESSES WITH WHOM PORTER SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE, INCLUDING TWO YOUTHFUL MILITIAMEN INVOLVED, APPARENTLY WROTE DOWN FULL LICENSE NUMBER OF TAN VOLGA. PORTER CALLED BORIS PETROVICH CHECHEL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION AT HIS HOME AT 8:00 P.M. AND GAVE HIM FULL RUNDOWN OF INCIDENT. CHECHEL AGREED TO RECEIVE PORTER AT 10:00 JUNE 7. PORTER ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR BY TELEPHONE. A LATER CHECK WITH TWO MILITIAMEN CONFIRMED THEY HAD MADE REPORT TO
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DARNITSA DISTRICT DUTY OFFICER, BUT THEY BLANDLY, IF NERVOUSLY, DISMISSED EVENT AS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CAUSED BY HOOLIGANS JUST PASSING THROUGH.

E. COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCIDENT JUNE 6 STRONGLY SUGGEST IT WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED PROVOCATION BY SOVIET SECURITY FORCES. PORTER WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON JUNE 13 DURING NEXT SCHEDULED VISIT TO EMBASSY MOSCOW.
PORTER. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: I AM VERY CONCERNED OVER PORTER'S HANDLING OF THIS MATTER. WE HAVE ASKED HIM TO COOL IT AND COME TO MOSCOW ASAP TO TALK IT OVER. IN OUR VIEW, THERE WERE SEVERAL ERRORS IN JUDGMENT, BEGINNING WITH HIS SCHEDULING MEETING IN THIS FASHION, THEN RASH OVERREACTION TO PRESENCE OF PHOTOGRAPHER, AND FINALLY LANGUAGE WHICH IS INAPPROPRIATE IN OPEN TELEX. IF AMBASSADOR CONCURS, WE WILL TELL PORTER TO DROP MATTER AT THIS POINT AND TO AVOID IN FUTURE EXPOSING HIMSELF TO THIS SORT OF THING. MATLOCK

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